

## FLORICULTURE

New York New York floriculture production ranked sixth in the nation for total commercial sales in 2002. Value of sales increased from a year earlier for bedding and garden plants, potted flowering plants, cut flowers, and foliage for indoor or patio use. The overall value of commercial sales increased 7 percent to 185 million. Bedding and garden plants continued to be the highest component of the total value of sales increasing 7 percent from 2001 to 104 million. Potted flowering plants were second with a value of sales of 47.1 million, an increase of 17 percent. Cut flowers ranked third at 5.68 million, an increase of 26 percent.

The number of commercial growers decreased for the fifth consecutive year. During 2002, there were 663 growers. The area used to produce floriculture crops in the state was up approximately 4 percent. Greenhouse space for operators exceeding the \$10,000 sales level increased 3 percent to total 24.4 million square feet in 2002. This increase pushed the total covered area (*greenhouse plus shade and temporary structures*) up to 25.3 million square feet, 4 percent more than 2001.



The total U.S. wholesale value of floriculture crops grown by operations exceeding the \$100,000 sales level reached \$4.62 billion in 2002, up 3 percent from the revised 2001 total. These operations, which comprise 45 percent of all growers, account for 95 percent of the total value of floriculture crops. Bedding and garden plants wholesale value, at \$2.28 billion, is the largest contributor to the value of production, up 5 percent from the previous year. Potted flowering plants value, at \$822 million, is virtually unchanged from 2001. The foliage category is valued at \$663 million for 2002. This is up 2 percent from the revised 2001 estimate. Value of cut flowers, at \$410 million, is down 2 percent, while cut cultivated greens, at \$111 million, is down 1 percent from 2001.